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University of Utah Students Rally For a Wind Power Purchase by Utah's Largest University

*U of U Students, Faculty, Staff, and Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson support efforts to enable
the University of Utah to Set Example by Using Renewable Energy*

SALT LAKE CITY – Today, hundreds of University of Utah students converge on the steps of the University's main administration building to demonstrate support for the University of Utah Wind Power Campaign (UofUWPC) proposed \$1.00 student-fee to purchase pollution-free, wind generated electricity for the University of Utah. Wind Power Man, the campaign's mascot, made his debut appearance, he will be seen around campus in the coming weeks to help students understand the environmental impacts of electricity generation and the huge benefits of the \$1 per semester student fee.

\$1 per student per semester (just over the price of a single candy bar) would:

- Support the largest wind power purchase in the State of Utah
- Reduce the U of U's greenhouse gas emissions by over 3,000 tons per year (*equivalent to planting nearly 1000 acres of trees per year*)
- Save approximately 3 million gallons of water per year (extremely important in these times of drought)
- Help improve regional air quality

According to an informal online poll of over 450 students, conducted by the U of U Student Newspaper, 80% of the students support paying at least \$1 per semester to help the U buy wind power. Elise Brown, a member of Terra Firma who is co-coordinating the campaign is thrilled at the response they have received saying, "We have collected over 1,000 student signatures voicing support for wind power, showing that many share the vision of our clean energy campaign. Students don't seem to know about the harms of using coal-based energy, such as regional air pollution, global warming, toxic mercury emissions, and water usage. When they find out, they're more than willing to pay the proposed fee of \$1 per semester."

The University of Utah uses approximately the same amount of electricity as 28,000 average homes more than 90% of that energy is generated by coal-burning power plants. Kevin Emerson, of the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies' Utah Wind Power Campaign used annual electricity data to calculate the U's hourly electricity use. His calculations showed that:

During the one-hour rally:

- the University of Utah campus used nearly 27,000 kWh of electricity,
- the generation of which emitted over 30 tons of CO₂ and used over 13,000 gallons of water.

The UofUWPC is working with the University administration, faculty and members of ASUU to pass the proposed \$1 student fee resolution. Jim Bergstedt, ASUU sponsor of the resolution said "If this campaign is successful the University will promote clean energy and help improve the quality of the air we breathe." He went on to say, "Other universities have implemented such a change with overwhelming support—we are receiving that support here at the University of Utah!"

With the success of the UofUWPC, the University of Utah would join universities across the nation like the University of Colorado, Penn State, Carnegie Mellon, the University of Oregon, University of Vermont, nine campuses of the University of California, among others, as foremost educational institutions actively taking steps toward reducing their impact on the environment and representing the practicality of renewable resources.

Tiffin Brough, the ASUU Executive Assistant asserts, "My University's mission is not limited to the cloistered walls of academic research, but seeks to serve the students and [our larger] community; to use our knowledge and position to better our community, our health, and our future."

U student and rally organizer, Aaron Titus explained, "This is a global issue in our backyard; we really have the power to make a difference. We have been overwhelmed with student support. The students of the University of Utah are sending a clear message to the community that they're serious about environmental responsibility."

Fred Montague, Ph.D. Department of Biology at the University of Utah stated, "This student initiative represents the kind of project that can promote a sustainable and equitable future. It is the kind of project that makes me glad I'm associated with the University of Utah."

Christine Watson, Wind Program Director for the State of Utah Energy Office explained that, "This is an important first step that the students can take to create their future diversified energy portfolio." She went on to say, "Wind purchases like these create the demand that can lead to wind development in Utah."

For more information about Terra Firma and the U of U Wind Power Campaign visit: www.utah.edu/green
And about the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies' Utah Wind Power Campaign visit: www.utahgreenpower.org

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